

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-06

DRC-01 /166 W

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R 191025Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8643

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PRETORIA 3374

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SA, LT

SUBJECT: VORSTER ATTACKS LESOTHO GOVERNMENT

REF: A) MASERU 1030; B) PRETORIA 3326 (NOTAL)

1. SPEAKING AT NATIONAL PARTY'S FREE STATE CONGRESS IN BLOEMFONTEIN SEPTEMBER 18, PRIME MINISTER VORSTER LAUNCHED SCATHING ATTACK ON LESOTHO GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN AND PLACED BLAME FOR RECENT DETERIORATION IN RELATIONS ENTIRELY ON JONATHAN.

2. OCCASION FOR VORSTER'S REMARKS WAS REPORTED STATEMENT BY GOL'S UN AMBASSADOR IN NEW YORK WHICH ATTACKED SAG FOR "MASSACRE"

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AT CARLETONVILLE AND REQUESTED THAT UN REPRESENTATIVE BE APPOINTED

TO PARTICIPATE IN SAG INQUEST INTO KILLINGS "TO SEE THAT JUSTICE IS DONE".

3. VORSTER STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT UN REPRESENTATIVE WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED IN SOUTH AFRICA BUT SAID HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO LESOTHO APPOINTING JUDICIAL REPRESENTATIVE AT INQUEST. HE ALSO REJECTED ALLEGATIONS SAG HAD DELAYED IN INFORMING GOL OF CARLETONVILLE SHOOTINGS (REFTEL A).

4. ALTHOUGH SAG HAD NOT REACTED IN PAST YEARS WHEN JONATHAN MISSED FEW OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTACK SOUTH AFRICA IN UN AND OAU, VORSTER STATED JONATHAN HAD "NOW GONE TOO FAR". HE ASKED ANGRILY WHETHER IT WAS SOUTH AFRICA'S FAULT IF CHIEF JONATHAN AND BRITAIN "HAD MADE SUCH A MESS" OF LESOTHO THAT ITS PEOPLE HAD TO SEEK WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA. VORSTER RESPONDED TO GOL EXPRESSIONS OF DESIRE TO LESSEN DEPENDENCE ON SOUTH AFRICA BY SAYING, "THE SOONER THE BETTER." HE CLAIMED HE WAS SORRY SPEAK TO LEADER OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRY IN THIS MANNER "BUT WE CANNOT GO ON LIKE THIS".

6. COMMENT: SAG AND GOL RELATIONS APPARENTLY HAVE NOW REACHED NADIR AFTER LONG PERIOD OF DETERIORATION. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, AS MASERU 1038 INDICATED, LESOTHO OPPOSITION'S EFFORTS TO PROD GOL INTO ESTABLISHING FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SAG ARE NOT LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

SMITH

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